The Call Letter

Vol. 1, No. 1

Welcome to the first edition of The Call Letter, the official newsletter of the Student Radio Task Force and the soon to be established student-run radio station of The University of Texas. This newsletter will be printed periodically to keep students updated on the efforts of the task force and the station staff.

Cable operation should begin this Fall!

If all goes well during the summer, cable system operation of the station will begin this fall. Only subscribers to Austin CableVision will be able to pick up the signal which will be sent through the regular cable system and connected to FM stereos. Except for the monthly cost of the cable, people interested in receiving the station will hopefully be able to receive the FM audio service for free. We are working with CableVision on possibilities for student subscription specials. Hardly a bad price to pay to hear a quality, student-run, alternative radio station in Austin.

Furthermore, as soon as money becomes available, we will be able to pursue the search for an FM frequency.

Students will make it work

Over 120 people met the deadline for preliminary applications for station staff members.

Positions have been chosen for some of the station's director positions. These people will be working to develop their perspective departments before the operation begins. Burt Yount will be the Publicity Director, Scott Kentros is the new Fundraising Director, Mike McCalpin will serve as the Production Director, Kristy Bartlett as Campus and Community Affairs Director, Sara Pevaroff as Advertising/Underwriting Director. Congratulations to all of these individuals! It was not an easy decision, with so many good people. Coming soon: The one and only music director, the programming manager, and the business manager.

Those who applied for disc jockeys and news and sports staff will be interviewed and chosen sometime after the Fall semester begins. Also, anyone is eligible to be an assistant director.

Station to provide alternative to local radio

Because all the commercial stations now existing in Austin receive their income from advertisers, their programming is restricted to music which will draw the largest audience. This restriction will not apply to the radio station.. Therefore, the student radio station will be educating its listeners by programming music which is good but never given a chance on commercial radio stations.

In programming surveys developed by Laura Martz, task force programming coordinator, students indicated they would prefer alternative rock and local Austin music on the station.

SRTF makes history with KUT-FM arrangement

KUT-FM, the public radio station on the UT campus, is restricted from being a training facility for students. For the last 15 years, only a handful of students have received internships. The task force submitted a proposal to Communications Dean Robert Jeffrey, asking for more student involvement at KUT. The SRTF requested that its members receive training at KUT now until the new student station begins operation. On July 16, the SRTF received word that its request had been granted.

$10 K given from S.A.; more funds needed

At the last Students' Association Senate meeting, a bill to allocate $10,000 to the Student Radio Task Force was passed. This money will be used for building the studio in the old Varsity Cafeteria across from Jester Center.

This $10,000, a $2,700 donation from the Ex-Students Association, and proceeds from nine months of fund-raising mean the task force has around $17,500 to be used for the start-up of the station. There is also a possibility that a $5,000 grant from a well known corporation may soon be awarded to the task force.

However, student radio is still in need of more then $20,000 to pay for long-term operational costs, a frequency search, and the salary of a broadcasting supervisor. A contingency fund for student radio was also recently established UT President WIlliam Cunningham. Organizations or alumni who want to make substantial donations to student-run radio can send them in care of UT Vice President Dr. Ronald Brown. If for some reason the radio station is not approved, the money would be refunded.

SRTF invades the New Music Seminar

Student Radio Task Force Chair, Kevin Tuerff, and Students' Association Vice-President Kirk Launius recently visited New York City to attend the New Music Seminar. Tuerff and Launius visited several panels regarding college radio, rubbed elbows with important people, and brought back over fifteen pounds of albums and tapes. New York will never be the same!

Student radio may go under TSP umbrella

The Student Radio Task Force Executive Committee recently voted to pursue the option of incorporating student radio station under the auspices of Texas Student Publications. A formal proposal was submitted to the board for its approval in late June. After a presentation to the TSP Executive Committee in July, the two groups agreed to work with each other to answer a few remaining technical questions before the board will actually vote on the proposal.

Texas Student Publications currently oversees all student publications, including the *Daily Texan*. If an agreement is reached by the board; and the minutes of the board meeting are approved by UT President William Cunningham, the long awaited station will become a reality.

Student radio leaders met with President Cunningham and Vice President Ronald Brown in late June. "The UT administration is very supportive of our efforts, and they feel that TSP is the best option for a backbone structure for the radio station," Task Force Chairman Kevin Tuerff said. "TSP certainly is a respected and credible operation. We hope both TSP and student radio will benefit from the incorporation."

Fund-raising continues throughout the summer

Kristy Bartlett, task force fund-raising coordinator, has been hard at work organizing the West Mall table during the summer. SRTF workers have been selling loads of "Radio-Head" and "Don't Mess with Texas" t-shirts. Kristy is also working hard on planning a benefit concert in late August, and on an Austin local music compilation tape that the station will put out.

Wanted: old or new albums or tapes

The Student Radio Task Force has received about 150 new albums largely from small, independent labels. In order to begin operations soon, we need to build our record library quickly. We are looking for albums that you think are good but receive little or no airplay on Austin's radio stations.

Record or tape donations can be made by sending the records or tapes to the task force or by dropping them by the Texas Union Building, room 4.310.